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Earthquakes. An Introduction to Seismic Geology. By William Herbert Hobbs. xxi and 336 pp., Photographs, Sketch Maps, and Diagrams, Appendix, and Index. D. Appleton & Co., New York, 1907. (Price, \$2.)

The book presents in a readable manner a subject of unusual interest. Prof. Hobbs discusses the theories and causes of earthquakes, reviews the regions where shocks are most frequent and depicts the nature of the movements and their effects upon topography and drainage lines. He also describes a number of great earthquakes, especially those occurring in the United States. While Prof. Hobbs's book is a clearly written and intelligent treatment of the subject, he seems to have impaired its value by adopting views that have not passed the stage of theory and are not generally approved by geologists. He especially lays more emphasis upon the influence in producing earthquakes of what he calls "earth lineaments" or old fault lines than many geologists are willing to concede. On the whole, however, there is much in his book that is sound and suggestive, the numerous illustrations are very helpful and the work shows admirable descriptive talent.

Geschichte des Welthandels. Von Dr. Max Georg Schmidt. iv and 140 pp. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1906.

Deals with the development of the larger phases of commerce from our earliest knowledge to the present time. The whole subject, from the trade relations between the ancient Egyptians and Phænicians to the commercial impulse given by the age of steam is concisely treated, but no important historical link is missing.

Captain James Cook, R.N., F.R.S., "The Circumnavigator." By Arthur Kitson. xvi and 525 pp., 19 Illustrations, Route Map, and Index. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York, 1907. (Price, \$4.50.)

This book is worthy of wide attention not only because it gives in a single volume all that it is important to know about Cook and his achievements, but also because it is a work of critical compilation and editing. Apparently none of the unreliable and sometimes absurd statements which have disfigured the pages of the leading writers on Cook are included here. Mr. Kitson has evidently taken pains to verify the accounts of the early life of Cook; and his version of the three voyages while, of course, based upon the manuscripts which Cook himself prepared for publication has been compared with and checked by logs and diaries kept by a number of Cook's companions, some of which have not hitherto been published.

Every intelligent person some time or other should read Cook because he was a genius in his way, peculiarly qualified for geographical discovery. It is not only because his three voyages covered over a third of the water surface of the world and revealed to us New Zealand, New Caledonia, the Hawaiian Islands, and many smaller lands that the record of his work can never perish. It is also because his pioneer work was so good that most of it stands as truth to-day. Hydrographic surveyors tell us that his careful charts of the shores of New Zealand and of the eastern coast of Australia differ not greatly from those we use to-day. All he wrote of the economic possibilities of Australia is true.

The merit of this book is that the author has selected from the array of material supplied by Cook and others all that is best worth holding fast in a condensed version of his life and achievements such as alone can command attention in these busy times.